



**Adjective inflection in Zahrani Spoken
Arabic**

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Abstract

This paper deals with the morphology of adjectives and illustrates the inflectional processes in Zahrani Spoken Arabic (ZSA). Adjectives in ZSA vary according to their derivation: they are derived from lexical roots and other parts of speech such as verbs, including present and past participles. Some adjectives are formed from adjectives derived from nouns that have *nisbah* suffixes. Another set of adjectives are formed by using root/pattern rules. Adjectives usually come after the noun in ZSA. Adjectives in postnominal position agree with the noun in gender, number and definiteness. Adjectives also occur in prenominal position in ZSA where they do not agree fully with the noun.

Key words: *Saudi Dialects, Zahrani Spoken Arabic, morphology, inflection, adjectives*

1. Introduction

An adjective phrase may consist of an adjective alone or contain other elements such as degree adverbs. Adjectives can be definite or indefinite depending on the nouns they modify. Examine these examples:

- (1) a. *maʔzu:l*
mad.SG
M
'mad'
- b. *maʔzu:l-un*
mad.SGM-INDF
'mad'
- c. *al-maʔzu:l*
def-mad.sgm
'the mad'

In the above examples, the adjective *maʔzu:l* 'mad' stands alone to form an adjective phrase as in (1a). An adjective phrase can also contain other elements such as the indefinite suffix marker *-un* (1b) or the definite article *al-*.

Adjective phrases can also include degree adverbs such as *dʒahda:* 'very' in **Error! Reference source not found.**(b), *fiwayah* 'little' in **Error! Reference source not found.**(c), and *marrah* 'so' in **Error! Reference source not found.**(d). The phrase can contain two degree adverbs but when they reflect the superlative sense as in **Error!**

مجلة الكلية الآداب: فصلية- علمية- محكمة تعني بنشر الأبحاث العلمية في مجالات الدراسة الإنسانية اللغوية والأدبية والتاريخية والجغرافية والفلسفية والاجتماعية والنفسية والإعلامية وترحب المجلة بالإسهامات العلمية للسادة أعضاء هيئة التدريس والباحثين من العالمين العربي والإسلامي لإثراء المجلة.

قواعد النشر:-

- ١- تقبل المجلة البحوث باللغات العربية والإنجليزية والفرنسية.
- ٢- يقر البحث كتابة أن بحثه لم يسبق نشره ولم يرسل لجهة أخرى للنشر.
- ٣- يخطر الباحث بخطاب رسمي بقبول النشر في حالة إجازة البحث للنشر.
- ٤- تعد الخرائط والرسوم البيانية وغيرها من الإيضاحات من قبل الباحث بطريقة تجعلها قابلة للطبع.
- ٥- تعبر البحوث المنشورة عن رأي اصحابها فقط.
- ٦- أصول الأعمال المقدمة للمجلة لا ترد حتى في حالة عدم قبولها للنشر.
- ٧- يحصل الباحث على نسخة واحدة من عدد المجلة المنشور بها + C.D + عشر مستلآت من البحث.
- ٨- الحجم الأمثل المقبول في حدود (٣٠ صفحة) يسدد الباحث المصري ٦٠٠ جنيها وخمسة عشر جنيهاً عن كل صفحة زائدة، ويسدد الباحث العربي والأجنبي ٣٠٠ دولار وثلاثة دولار عن كل صفحة زائدة.
- ٩- يسلم البحث مطبوعاً من أصل وصورتين + C.D على أن يكون مجموعاً ببنط ١٤، وأن يكون مقاس الصفحة 12x19سم.
- ١٠- يكتب عنوان البحث واسم الباحث ودرجته العلمية وجهة عمله في أول صفحة من البحث.
- ١١- تكتب المراجع والهوامش في نهاية البحث، مع الالتزام بالأسس العلمية للتوثيق.

- ١٢- يرفق ملخصان للبحث باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية على ألا يتجاوز حجم الملخص صفحة واحدة.
- ١٣- تنشر المجلة ملخصات الرسائل العلمية العربية والأجنبية.
- ١٤- تنشر المجلة بحوث معاوني هيئة التدريس كمتطلب للحصول على درجتي الماجستير والدكتوراه.
- ١٥- تنشر المجلة بحوث أعضاء هيئة التدريس بدرجة أستاذ وفق القيمة الفعلية للطباعة.
- ١٦- توجه جميع المكاتبات أو الاستفسارات الخاصة بالنشر إلى رئيس تحرير المجلة على العنوان التالي.

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Reference source not found.e), *marrah* ‘so’ must come second. Hence, example **Error! Reference source not found.g)** is not acceptable.

- (2)
- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. | <i>ħala:h</i>
nice.SGM/
f
‘nice’ | | |
| b. | <i>ħala:h</i>
nice.SGM/F
‘very nice’ | <i>đahda:</i>
very | |
| c. | <i>ħala:h</i>
nice.SGM/F
‘nice’ | <i>fiwajah</i>
little | |
| d. | <i>ħala:h</i>
nice.SGM/F
‘so nice’ | <i>marrah</i>
so | |
| e. | <i>ħala:h</i>
nice.SGM/F
‘nice so much’ | <i>đahda:</i>
much | <i>marrah</i>
so |
| f. | * <i>ħala:h</i>
nice.SGM/F
‘nice’ | <i>fiwajah</i>
little | <i>marrah</i>
<i>so</i> |
| g. | * <i>ħala:h</i>
nice.SGM/F
‘nice so much’ | <i>marrah</i>
so | <i>đahda:</i>
much |

Adjectives usually come after the noun in ZSA. Adjectives in postnominal position agree with the noun in gender, number and definiteness.¹

- (3)
- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. | <i>bint</i>
girl.SGF | <i>ħurr-ah</i>
good-SGF |
| | ‘a good girl’ | |
| b. | <i>al-bint</i>
DEF-girl.SGF | <i>al-ħurr-ah</i>
DEF-good-SGF |
| | ‘the good girl’ | |

- (4) a. *đabal* *kibi:r*

¹ ZSA does not have case marking.

- mountain.SGM big.SGM
 'a big mountain'
 b. *al-dʒabal* *al-kibi:r*
 DEF- DEF-big-SGM
 mountain.SGM The
 'the big mountain' above

examples show full agreement between the nouns *bint* 'girl' and *dʒabal* 'mountain' and the adjectives *alhurrah* 'good' and *alkibi:r* 'big'. Both nouns are singular and modified by singular adjectives. Also, the gender of the head noun controls the gender of the modifier (the adjective). Human reference and non-human reference show no difference in regard to agreement with singular adjectives. So, the noun has to have full agreement with the adjective regardless of its reference.

However, there are some exceptions in the plural. With animate plural nouns, adjectives agree in gender, number and definiteness with the nouns they modify. On the other hand, adjectives modifying the plurals of inanimate nouns are treated as feminine singular. That is, inanimate plural nouns **trigger** the feminine singular on adjectives. Note the following examples:

- (5) a. *al-bana:t* *al-hilwa:t*
 DEF- DEF-beautiful-PLF
 girl.PLF
 'the beautiful girls'
 b. *al-mudarris-i:n* *al-haḏʿr-i:n*
 DEF-teacher- DEF-present-PLM
 PLM
 'the present teachers'
 (6) a. *as-sajjar-a:t* *al-gidi:m-ah*
 DEF-car.PLF DEF-old-SGF
 'the old cars'
 b. *al-ʔafla:m* *al-gidi:m-ah*
 DEF- DEF-old-SGF
 flag.PLM
 'the old flags'

In example 0) above, it is seen that both *albana:t* 'the girls' and *almudarrisi:n* 'the teachers' are modified by *alhilwa:t* 'beautiful' and *alhaḏʿri:n* 'present', where they show full agreement in gender, number

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and definiteness. On the other hand, example 0) shows no agreement except with definiteness. Inanimate nouns are always modified by a feminine singular adjective regardless of gender or number, consequently the inanimate plural nouns *assajjara:t* ‘the cars’ and *alʔaʕla:m* ‘the flags’ in (6) are modified by the feminine singular adjective *algidi:mah* ‘old’.²

Interestingly, adjectives also occur in prenominal position in ZSA where they do not agree fully with the noun. This structure is found in MSA and Hebrew and is known as adjectival construct state (Al Barrag, 2013). It is argued that this structure combines the features of adjectives and nominal construct state (Al Sharifi & Sadler 2009; Kremers, 2003, 2005). Both regular adjectives and superlative adjectives can appear prenominally. However, unlike MSA,³ this kind of adjectival construct state is less productive in ZSA and limited to idiomatic phrases.⁴ Examine the following examples:

- (7)
- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------|
| a. | <i>su:d</i> | <i>al-widʕi:h</i> |
| | black.PLM | DEF-face-PLF |
| | ‘the badly-behaved people’ | |
| b. | <i>χuðʕr</i> | <i>al-ʕjiba:l</i> |
| | green.PLM | DEF-mountain-PLM |
| | ‘the grassy mountains’ | |
| c. | <i>manku:f</i> | <i>aʕ-faʕr</i> |
| | curly.SGM | DEF-hair-SGM |
| | ‘the curly hair’ | |
| d. | <i>tʕawi:l</i> | <i>allias:n</i> |
| | tall.SGM | DEF-tongue-SGM |
| | ‘talkative’ | |
| e. | <i>tʕawi:l</i> | <i>lias:n</i> |

² Masculine dual nouns take masculine plural adjectives as modifiers if they refer to humans (Section 2.1.2) and feminine dual nouns take feminine plural adjectives as modifiers when they refer to humans (Section 2.1.4). However, when the referents are non-human, both masculine and feminine dual nouns are modified by feminine singular adjectives (Section 2.1.4).

³ In MSA adjectival construct state can contain any regular adjective (Bardeas, 2010; Fassi Fehri, 1999; Kremers, 2003) whereas it is limited in other Semitic languages such as Hebrew.

⁴ This process is not common even in other Saudi dialects such as HA (Al Barrag, 2013).

- tall.SGM tongue-SGM
'the talkative'
f. *tʿawi:l-at allias:n*
tall-SGF DEF-tongue-SGM
'the talkative'
g. *tʿawi:l-at lias:n*
tall-SGF tongue-SGM
'the talkative'

By

looking at the above examples, it is clearly noted that there is gender and number agreement between the adjectives and the modified nouns as in (7b,c,d,e) although some adjectives do show only gender agreement as in (0a,f,g). In construct state, however, there is no agreement in definiteness, hence, the following examples are ungrammatical:

- (8) a. **as-su:d al-widʒi:h*
DEF- DEF-face-PLF
black.PLM
b. **al-widʒi:h al-widʒi:h*
DEF- DEF-mountain-PLM
green.PLM
'the grassy mountains'
c. **al-manku:f af-faʕr*
DEF- DEF-hair-SGM
curly.SGM
'the curly hair'
d. **atʿ-tʿawi:l allias:n*
DEF-tall.SGM DEF-tongue-SGM
'the talkative'
e. **atʿ-tʿawi:l lias:n*
DEF-tall.SGM tongue-SGM
'the talkative'
f. **atʿ-tʿawi:l-at allias:n*
DEF-tall-SGF DEF-tongue-SGM
'the talkative'
g. **atʿ-tʿawi:l-at lias:n*
DEF-tall-SGF tongue-SGM

افتتاحية العدد

يأتي العدد الجديد من مجلة كلية الآداب - جامعة الزقازيق رقم ٨٦ صيف ٢٠١٨ ثانياً في أبحاثه وأفكاره المتنوعة التي تغطي جانباً كبيراً من الدراسات الإنسانية.

يحتوي هذا العدد على تسعة أبحاث أولها في مجال الدراسات الإسلامية بعنوان: "الخصائص الدلالية للتعبير القرآني في تصوير أفاظ وتراكيب الهلاك" للدكتورة/ أسام خضير خليل وهو يبين دلالة الألفاظ والتراكيب الدالة على الهلاك التي وردت في القرآن الكريم بأشكال متنوعة برهنت من خلالها الباحثة على براعة القرآن الكريم في تصوير الألفاظ والتراكيب بما يتلاءم والسياق القرآني.

وللغة العربية نصيب ببحث للدكتور/ محمد بن رده بن عطية الله الغمري وعنوانه "النظام النحوي للعربية من الاستقرار إلى الشمول والثبات" وتهدف الدراسة إلى إثبات أن مجموع العوامل الدينية والاجتماعية والفكرية هي الدافع الأساسي والأشمل لقيام الدراسات النحوية، وأن النحو هو أحد العلوم التي نفهم من خلالها النص وتخدمه، وجاء بحث اللغة الإنجليزية للدكتور/ صالح الزهراني تحت عنوان "تأثير الصفات في لغة الزهراني العربية" والتي تختلف حسب اشتقاقها، فمنها المشتقة من كلمات آخري مثل الأفعال والأسماء.

وتتوج الدراسات في مجال اللغة الفرنسية ببحثين أولهما للدكتورة/ سحر رجاء وعنوانه "البحث عن الترجمة المفقودة، الترجمة المرئية في خدمة الترجمة المكتوبة" وماهية العلاقة بينهما. وتطبق الدراسة على الخطاب السياسي خاصة على خطابين بين لرئيس السلطة الفلسطينية محمود عباس والذيان يدوران حول القضية الفلسطينية ولكنهما يختلفان باختلاف المناسبة أو السياق الذي قيل فيه. أما البحث الثاني فهو للدكتورة/ نيللي عبد الخالق الحداد تحت عنوان "اللجوء إلى أحضان الطبيعة من خلال رواية رجل السياج للكاتب جون تواسار" والذي يركز على ارتباط الإنسان الوثيق بالطبيعة من خلال الرواية محل الدراسة، واتبعت الدراسة منهج التحليل الموضوعي القائم على العناصر الأربعة لباسلارد وهي: الأرض والماء والهواء والنار.

وفي مجال الجغرافيا، يأتي بحث للدكتورة/ منال عبد المحسن رمضان وعنوانه: "إنتاج عسل النحل في مركز المنصورة" دراسة جغرافية والذي يعد محاولة لتحديد البعد المكاني في تطوير وتنمية مشروعات تربية عسل النحل في مركز المنصورة كأحد المشروعات الإنتاجية المهمة وأسست الدراسة على المنهج الاقليمي.

أما الدراسات الإعلامية فلها نصيب ببحثين أولهما في مجال العلاقات العامة محمد على أبو العلا قنديل وعنوانه "استراتيجيات التفاوض في الأزمات الدولية" أزمة سد النهضة نموذجاً، ويهدف إلى التعرف على أهمية الاستراتيجيات التفاوضية المستخدمة في حل مشكلة الصراع القائم بين الجانبين

المصري والأثيوبي حول مشكلة مياه النيل وبناء سد النهضة، واعتمدت الدراسة على منهج تحليل خطاب عدد من وسائل الإعلام المصرية في تناولها لقضية سد النهضة.

أما البحث الثاني فهو للدكتور عبد الملك بن عبد العزيز الشلهوب وعنوانه: "معوقات البحث الإعلامي لدى أعضاء هيئة التدريس في كليات وأقسام الإعلام في الجامعات السعودية" دراسة مسحية، وتركز الدراسة على دور البحث العلمي في قيادة الجامعات في المجالات العلمية والمعرفية من أجل التطوير والابتكار والارتقاء بالمستوى والقدرات العلمية والتقنية الوطنية.

وفي الدراسات التاريخية نجد بحث بعنوان: "تأثير الثقافات الصينية على الفن الصيني" للدكتور/ إبراهيم عبد العظيم أحمد والذي يرصد تأثير الفنون الصينية على العالم، ونحوه عن طريق إدخال العديد من الألوان الفنية الصينية للعالم الإسلامي مثل رسم الصور الشخصية والزخرفية واستخدام الأشكال الهندسية والأختام المربعة ودورها في التنمية المحلية واتبعت الدراسة المنهج التاريخي الوصفي.

وفي مجال علم الاجتماع نجد بحث الدكتورة/ صابرين جابر محمد بعنوان: "العوامل الاقتصادية الخاصة وعلاقتها بالإجرام (الفقر – البطالة)" والذي يتناول بالدراسة لدور الفقر والبطالة في دفع الفرد إلى الانحراف والإجرام واعتمدت الدراسة على المنهج الاستنباطي.

وبعد هذا العرض الموجز لمحتوي هذا العدد، لا يسعنا إلا أن نتوجه بخالص الشكر إلى السادة محكمي الأبحاث الواردة فيه، ونسال الله التوفيق والسداد للسادة الباحثين.

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة

أ.د/ هناء زكريا

وكيل الكلية للدراسات العليا والبحوث

On the other hand, pronominal adjectives may occur in the superlative (or relative) form. They occur in “genitive construct”. This form only appears in the masculine singular form therefore agreement is coincidental, as shown in the following examples:

- (9)
- | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------------|
| a. | <i>ʔakbar</i> | <i>sajjara-ah</i> |
| | biggest.SGM | car-SGF |
| | | ‘the biggest car’ |
| b. | <i>ʔakbar</i> | <i>dʒamal</i> |
| | biggest.SGM | camel-SGM |
| | | ‘the biggest camel’ |
| c. | <i>ʔakbar</i> | <i>sajjar-a:t</i> |
| | biggest.SGM | car-PLF |
| | | ‘the biggest cars’ |
| d. | <i>ʔakbar</i> | <i>dʒima:l</i> |
| | biggest.SGM | camel-PLM |
| | | ‘the biggest camels’ |

Interestingly, plural nouns inflect for definiteness but there is no adjective agreement. Singular nouns, however, never inflect for definiteness. Note the following examples:

- (10) a. *ʔakbar al-sajjara-ah
biggest.SGM DEF-car-SGF
'the biggest car'
b. *ʔakbar al-dʒamal
biggest.SGM DEF-camel-SGM
'the biggest camel'
c. ʔakbar as-sajjar-a:t
biggest.SGM DEF-car-PLF
'the biggest cars'
d. ʔakbar dʒima:l
biggest.SGM DEF-camel-PLM
'the biggest camels' 1.

2. Adjective inflection

As mentioned above, Adjectives in ZSA inflect for gender, number and definiteness. Many adjectives also inflect for degree (comparative and superlative). Adjectives must agree in gender, number and definiteness with the nouns which they modify, as will be seen in the following sections.⁵ So, they are in concord with those modified nouns where the agreement system is direct. Unlike MSA, ZSA does not show any case inflection.

Because adjectives follow the modified nouns in their inflections, the following section will include all the different inflectional categories: gender, number and definiteness. So, ZSA inflects for masculine and feminine and singular and plural.⁶ It also inflects for definite and indefinite, as will be illustrated below.

2.1.1 Inflection: gender, number and definiteness

2.1.2 Masculine singular adjectives

The masculine singular form of adjectives is the base form as the unmarked form. They modify masculine singular nouns. Consider the following examples:

- (11) a. wald ʔaki

⁵ McCarthy (1994) refers to adjectives as targets of the agreement requirements of nouns.

⁶ The dual is lost in ZSA.

المحتويات

الخصائص الدلالية للتعبير القرآني في تصوير ألقاظ وتراكيب الهلاك

أ.م.د/ أنسام خضير خليل ١

تأثير الثقافات الصينية على الفن الصيني من ق ٧ إلى ق ١٤ م

الباحث/ إبراهيم عبد العظيم إبراهيم ٣٩

العوامل الاقتصادية الخاصة وعلاقتها بالإجرام

د/ صابرين جابر محمد ٧١

النظام النحوي للعربية من الإستقرار إلى الشمول والثبات

د/ محمد بن ردة بن عطية العُمري ٨٥

استراتيجيات التفاوض في الأزمات الدولية "أزمة سد النهضة نموذجاً"

د/ محمد علي أبو العلا قنديل ١٠٣

انتاج عسل النحل في مركز المنصورة (دراسة جغرافية)

د/ منال عبد المحسن رمضان سعيد ١٦٧

معوقات البحث الإعلامي لدى أعضاء هيئة التدريس في كليات وأقسام

الإعلام في الجامعات السعودية "دراسة مسحية"

د/ شيما فتحي عبد الظاهر ٢٣٣

« A LA RECHERCHE DE LA TRADUCTION PERDUE: LA TRADUCTION-A-VUE AU SERVICE DE LA TRADUCTION ECRITE QUEL APPORT? »

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- boy.SGM Smart.SGM
 ‘a smart boy’
 b. *al-wald aḏ-ḏaki*
 DEF- DEF-smart.SGM
 boy.SGM
 ‘The smart boy’

It is seen in the above examples that the adjective *ḏaki*: ‘smart’ agrees in gender and number with the modified noun *wald*: ‘boy’ in 0. It also agrees in definiteness in 0). The same thing applies to non-human nouns as shown in the following examples:

- (12) a. *galam ḥabijaḏ*
 pen.SGM white.SGM
 ‘a white pen’
 b. *al-galam al-ḥabijaḏ*
 DEF-pen.SGM DEF-
 white.SGM
 ‘The white pen’

2.1.3 Masculine plural adjectives

Masculine plural adjectives modify and agree with masculine plural nouns if the referents are human beings. Consider the following examples:

- (13) a. *ḥawla:d ḥaḏkija*
 boy.PLM smart.PLM
 ‘smart boys’
 b. *al-ḥawla:d al-ḥaḏkija*
 DEF- DEF-smart.PLM
 boy.PLM
 ‘The smart boys’
 c. *mudarris-i:n ḥaḏkija*
 teacher-PLM smart.PLM
 ‘smart teachers’
 d. *al-mudarris-i:n al-ḥaḏkija*
 DEF-teacher- PLM DEF-smart.PLM
 ‘The smart teachers’
- (14) a. *ḥawla:d ḥa:gil-i:n*
 boy.PLM mature-PLM

- ‘Mature boys’
- b. *al-ʔawla:d* *al-ʕa:gil-i:n*
DEF-boy-PLM DEF-mature-PLM
‘The mature boys’
- c. *mudarris-i:n* *ʕa:gil-i:n*
teacher-PLM mature-PLM
‘Mature teachers’
- d. *al-mudarris-i:n* *al-ʕa:gil-i:n*
DEF-teacher-PLM DEF-mature-PLM
‘The mature teachers’

The above examples show that the adjectives agree in gender and number (0) and (0) and definiteness (0) and (0) with the modified nouns. Also, it is noticed that the above examples exhibit two different types of plurals: broken plural as in *ʔaḏkija*: ‘smart’ (0) and sound masculine plural as in *ʕa:gil-i:n*: ‘mature’ (0).

In addition, unlike MSA, ZSA uses masculine plural adjectives to modify masculine dual nouns when they refer to human beings. Consider the following examples:

- (15) a. *wald-e:n* *ʕa:gil-i:n*
boy-DLM mature-PLM
‘Two mature boys’
- b. *al-wald-e:n* *al-ʕa:gil-i:n*
DEF-boy-DLM DEF-mature-PLM
‘The two mature boys’
- c. *mudarris-e:n* *ʕa:gil-i:n*
teacher-DLM mature-PLM
‘Two mature teachers’
- d. *al-mudarris-e:n* *al-ʕa:gil-i:n*
DEF-teacher-
DLM DEF-mature-PLM
‘The two mature teachers’

The above examples show gender agreement as well as definiteness agreement. Because ZSA does not have dual adjectives agreement, they show disagreement in number between adjective *ʕa:gili:n*: ‘mature’ and the modified nouns *walde:n*: ‘two boys’ and *mudarrise:n*: ‘two teachers’ respectively.

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agreement (gender, number and definiteness) with feminine plural nouns only when they refer to human beings. However, they show agreement only in gender and definiteness with the feminine dual nouns when they refer to human beings.

Adjectives show inflection for the comparative and the superlative forms using various patterns relying on the type of the roots to show increasing degree of intensity. They are derived from sound roots ($\text{ʔ}a\text{-}C_1C_2VC_3$), double roots ($\text{ʔ}a\text{-}C_1VC_2C_2$), hollow roots ($\text{ʔ}a\text{-}C_1C_2VC_3$) and defective roots ($\text{ʔ}a\text{-}C_1C_2V$). The comparative adjectives do not inflect for gender, number or definiteness, except if they are used to express the general meaning of the adjectives not the comparative one. The superlative adjectives come with the definite article prefix /*al-*/. They modify the noun preceding them, agreeing with them in gender, number and definiteness. Finally, *nunation* occurs with indefinite adjectives.

The superlative adjectives are used as the first term in the “genitive construct” in the masculine singular form followed by a singular indefinite where they do not inflect for gender. They can be also followed by a plural noun (masculine or feminine) where they do not show any agreement. The superlative adjectives can be used with an object pronoun suffix or with the definite article alone, but not with both.

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2.1.4 Feminine singular adjectives

Like MSA, ZSA uses the feminine singular adjectives to modify the feminine singular nouns as in 0). Consider the following examples:

- (16)
- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| a | <i>ṣabij-ah</i> | <i>ḍakij-ah</i> |
| | girl-SGF | smart-SGF |
| | ‘a smart girl’ | |
| b | <i>al-ṣabij-ah</i> | <i>aḍ-ḍakij-ah</i> |
| | DEF-girl-SGF | DEF-smart-SGF |
| | ‘The smart girl’ | |
| c | <i>sa:lif-ah</i> | <i>gaṣi:r-ah</i> |
| | story-SGF | short-SGF |
| | ‘a short story’ | |
| d | <i>as-sa:lif-ah</i> | <i>al-gaṣi:r-ah</i> |
| | DEF-story-SGF | DEF-short-SGF |
| | ‘The short story’ | |

The above examples show the feminine adjectives *ḍakij-ah*: ‘smart’ and *gaṣi:r-ah*: ‘short’ agreeing in gender, number and definiteness with the modified nouns referring to both human and non-human nouns. The feminine nouns may or may not carry the feminine suffix marker /-ah/. Consider the following examples:

- (17)
- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. | <i>da:r</i> | <i>ʔabijaḍ</i> |
| | house.SGF | white.SGF |
| | ‘a white house’ | |
| b. | <i>al-da:r</i> | <i>al-ʔabijaḍ</i> |
| | DEF-house.SGF | DEF-white.SGF |
| | ‘The white house’ | |

Moreover, unlike MSA, ZSA uses the feminine singular adjectives to modify both the masculine dual nouns as in 0) and the feminine dual nouns as in 0) when they refer to non-human beings.

Consider the following examples:

- (18)
- | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| a | <i>mata:r-e:n</i> | <i>ʕidi:d-ah</i> |
| | airport.DLM | new-SGF |
| | ‘Two new airports’ | |
| b | <i>al-mata:r-e:n</i> | <i>al-ʕidi:d-ah</i> |
| | DEF- | DEF-new-SGF |

- (19) a airport.DLM
‘The two new airports’
da:r-e:n ʕidi:d-ah
house-DLF new-SGF
‘Two new houses’
b *ad-da:r-e:n al-ʕidi:d-ah*
DEF-house-DLF DEF-new-SGF
‘The two new houses’

Interestingly, example 0) shows *ʕidi:d-ah*: ‘new’ where it does not agree in gender nor in number with *mata:r-e:n*: ‘two airports’. However, the feminine singular adjective *ʕidi:d-ah*: ‘new’ shows agreement in definiteness with the modified noun *mata:r-e:n*, as shown in 0). On the other hand, the same feminine singular adjective *ʕidi:d-ah*: ‘new’ shows agreement in gender with the feminine dual noun *da:r-e:n*: ‘two houses’ but not in number, as opposed to MSA. Also, the same adjective *ʕidi:d-ah*: ‘new’ agrees in definiteness with the modified noun *da:r-e:n*: ‘two houses’, as in 0).

In addition, the feminine singular adjectives are also used to modify the non-human plurals for both non-human masculine plural nouns, as in 0), and non-human feminine plural nouns, as in 0).⁷

Consider the following examples:

- (20) a *ʔagla:m ʕidi:d-ah*
pen.PL new-SGF
‘New pens’
b *al-ʔagla:m al-ʕidi:d-ah*
DEF-pen.PL DEF-new-SGF
‘The new pens’
(21) a *biju:t ʕidi:d-ah*
house.PLF new-SGF
‘New houses’
b *al-biju:t al-ʕidi:d-ah*
DEF-house.PLF DEF-new-SGF
‘The new houses’

⁷ Ryding (2005, p: 242) refers to this type of agreement as “deflected” agreement.

- Ali BE.3SGM.PF DEF-youngest-
v 3PLM.OBJ
‘Ali was the youngest among them.’

2.3 Inflection for nunation

Like nouns, adjectives do not inflect for case. However, nunation occurs with some adjectives which are indefinite, as shown in the following examples:

- (34) a *fa:hi: ʔarr-un marrah*
tea.SG hot- M SGM.INDF very
‘very hot tea’
b *ha:rb-un min-hum*
running away- 3SGM.INDF from-3PLM.OBJ
‘He is running away from them.’
c *fa:hi: ʔarr-unn*
tea.SGM hot-SGM.INDF
‘Hot tea’

Interestingly, unlike other Saudi dialects, ZSA has nunation in the final position as well as non-final position as seen in 0) above.

3. Conclusion

In this paper, it is shown that adjectives can inflect for gender, number and definiteness following the nouns they modify. Adjectives show inflection for degree (comparative and superlative). ZSA does not inflect for case due to the absence of case marking in nouns.

The masculine singular form of adjectives is the unmarked form which can be used to derive other forms. Masculine plural adjectives modify and agree with masculine plural nouns as well as masculine dual nouns when they refer to human beings. So, they show agreement in gender but not in number when used to modify the dual nouns. Both forms show agreement in definiteness. ZSA uses the feminine singular adjectives to: (1) modify the feminine singular nouns referring to human or non-human nouns; (2) modify both the masculine dual nouns and the feminine dual nouns if they refer to non-human beings; (3) modify the non-human plurals for both non-human masculine plural nouns and non-human feminine plural nouns. Thus, the feminine singular adjective is an exception with regard to the agreement system, except with definiteness. Feminine plural adjectives show full

However, it shows number agreement. This agreement takes place as coincidence. Consider the following examples:

- (31) a. *ʔaʔadd sajjara-ah*
newest.SGM car-SGF
'The newest car'
b. *ʔaʔadd mata:r*
newest.SG airport.SGM
M
'The newest airport'

As seen in the above example, the definite marker, which is an indicator distinguishing the superlative form from the comparative form, disappears. So, this structure is an exception.

The superlative adjective can be also followed by a plural noun in the "genitive construct" in which the adjective has the masculine singular form whether the following noun is masculine or feminine. So, it neither agrees in number nor in gender.

- (32) a. *ʔaʔadd sajjar-a:t*
newest.SG car-PLF
M
'The newest cars'
b. *ʔaʔadd mata:r-a:t*
newest.SG airport.PL
M
'The newest airports'

In addition, the superlative adjective can be used with **an object** pronoun suffix or with the definite article alone as illustrated in the following examples:

- (33) a. *Ali ka:n aʕʕar-hum*
Ali BE.3SGM.PF youngest- 3PLM.OBJ
v
'Ali was the youngest among them.'
b. *Ali ka:n al-aʕʕar*
Ali BE.3SGM.PF DEF-youngest
v
'Ali was the youngest.'
c. **Al ka:n al-aʕʕar-hum*
i

It is worth noting that the above examples show that the non-human masculine nouns may have broken plurals as in *ʔagla:m*: 'pens'. However, they can have the sound feminine plural marker */-a:t/* as in *mata:ra:t*: 'airports', as shown below:

- (22) a. *mata:r-a:t ʔidi:d-ah*
airport-PLM new-SGF
'New airports'
b. *al-mata:r-a:t al-ʔidi:d-ah*
DEF-airport-PLF DEF-new-SGF
'The new airports'

Also, the non-human feminine nouns may have broken plurals as in *biju:t*: 'houses'. However, they can have the sound feminine plural marker */-a:t/* as in *sajjar-a:t*: 'cars', as shown below:

- (23) a. *sajjar-a:t ʔidi:d-ah*
car-PLF new-SGF
'New cars'
b. *al-sajjar-a:t al-ʔidi:d-ah*
DEF-car-PLF DEF-new-SGF
'The new cars'

Therefore, **all the above examples show** that the feminine singular adjective *ʔidi:d-ah*: 'new' shows only gender and/or definiteness agreement with the modified nouns. This is true for MSA and other Saudi dialects such as HA and NA.

2.1.5 Feminine plural adjectives

Feminine plural adjectives are used to describe feminine plural nouns if they only refer to human beings. Consider the following examples:

- (24) a. *bina:t ʕa:gil-a:t*
girl.PLF mature-PLF
'Mature girls'
b. *al-bina:t al-ʕa:gil-a:t*
DEF-girl.PLF DEF-mature-PLF
'The mature girls'
c. *mudarris- ʕa:gil-a:t*
a:t
teacher-PLF mature-PLF
'Mature teachers'
d. *al-mudarris- al-ʕa:gil-a:t*
a:t

DEF-teacher-PLF DEF-mature-PLF
 'The mature teachers'

Like MSA, the above examples show full agreement (gender, number and definiteness) between the feminine plural adjectives with the feminine plural nouns in ZSA. However, the feminine plural adjectives are also used in ZSA to modify the feminine dual nouns when they refer to human beings as well. Consider the following examples:

- (25) a. *bint-e:n*⁸ *ʕa:gil-a:t*
 girl-DLF mature-PLF
 'Two mature girls'
- b. *al-bint-e:n* *al-ʕa:gil-a:t*
 DEF-girl-DLF DEF-mature-PLF
 'The two mature girls'
- c. *mudarris-te:n* *ʕa:gil-a:t*
 teacher-DLF mature-PLF
 'Two mature teachers'
- d. *al-mudarris-te:n* *al-ʕa:gil-a:t*
 DEF-teacher-DLF DEF-mature-PLF
 'The two mature teachers'

The above examples show the feminine plural adjective *ʕa:gil-a:t*: 'mature' agrees only in gender with the modified nouns for both *binte:n*: 'two girls' and *mudarriste:n*: 'two teachers', as in 0). They also have agreement in definiteness, as in 0).

The following tables show a summary of all the above discussion and examples. It is seen that non-humans do not need to have the plural masculine form as well as the plural feminine one.

⁸ It is worth noting that the noun *bint*: 'girl' ends in /t/. So, there is no need to have the /t/ again with the dual feminine suffix marker /-te:n/.

DEF-boy.SGM DEF-stupid.SGM
 'The stupid boy'

d. *al-bana:t* *al-bulh*
 DEF-girl.PLF DEF-stupid.PLF
 'The stupid girls'

It is seen in the above example that the adjective inflects for gender as in *balha*: 'stupid', definiteness as in *al-ʔablah*/and *al-bulh*: 'stupid' and number as in *al-bulh*: 'stupid'.

The superlative form of adjectives shows one of the main differences from the comparative form by having the definite article /al-/. So, it is always definite as shown below:

(29)		
Base form	Superlative form	Meaning
<i>kabi:r</i>	<i>al-ʔakbar</i>	the biggest
<i>gali:l</i>	<i>al-ʔagall</i>	the fewest
<i>tajjib</i>	<i>al-ʔatjab</i>	the best
<i>ḍaki:</i>	<i>al-ʔaḍka</i>	the smartest

The superlative adjective can be used in different contexts. It may modify the preceding noun agreeing with that noun in gender, number and definiteness as shown below:

- (30) a. *ad-daraʕ-ah* *aʕ-ʕuʕra*
 DEF-degree-SGF DEF-lowest.SGF
 'The lowest degree'
- b. *al-mata:r* *al-aʕʕar*¹⁰
 DEF-airport.SGM DEF-smallest.SGM
 'The smallest airport'

Moreover, the superlative adjective can be used as the first term in the "genitive construct" followed by a singular indefinite noun in which the adjective remains in the masculine form. That is, it does not inflect for gender regardless of the gender of the following noun.

¹⁰ The adjective *al-aʕʕar*: 'the smallest' has a feminine counterpart *aʕ-ʕuʕra*: 'the lowest'.

roots	<i>ḍaki:</i>		<i>ʔaḍka</i>	smarter
	<i>ʕali:</i>		<i>ʔaʕla</i>	higher

None of the comparative adjectives **inflect** for gender, number or definiteness, as can be seen in the following examples:

- (27) a. *Ali ʔakba min Sarah*
r
 Ali bigger than Sarah
 ‘Ali is bigger than Sarah.’
- b. *Sarah ʔakba min Ali*
r
 Sarah bigger than Ali
 ‘Sarah is bigger than Ali.’
- c. *al-walad ʔakba min al-bint*
r
 DEF-boy.SGM bigger than DEF-girl.SGF
 ‘The boy is bigger than the girl.’
- d. *al-bana:t ʔakba mi al-ʔawla:d*
r n
 DEF-girl.PLF bigger than DEF-boy.PLM
 ‘The girls are bigger than the boys.’

All the above examples share one single form of the adjective *ʔakbar*: ‘bigger’ regardless of the gender, the number and the definiteness of the modified nouns. However, some adjectives may appear in the comparative form but they express the general meaning of the adjective rather than the comparative meaning. Thus, they inflect for gender, number and definiteness as illustrated in the following examples:

- (28) a. *Ali ʔablah*
 Ali stupid.SGM
 ‘Ali is stupid.’
- b. *Sara balha:*
h
 Sara stupid.SGF
 ‘Sarah is stupid.’
- c. *al-wald al-ʔablah*

Table 1: Adjectives agreement for

human beings

Adj \ N	SGM	SGF	DLM	DLF	PLM	PLF
SGM	✓					
SGF		✓				
PLM			✓		✓	
PLF				✓		✓

Table 2: Adjectives agreement for non-humans

Adj \ N	SGM	SGF	DLM	DLF	PLM	PLF
SGM	✓					
SGF		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

2.2 Inflection for comparative and superlative

The comparative and the superlative forms of adjectives are also called “elative” forms in Arabic (Ryding, 2005). They signify increasing degree of intensity. Like MSA, ZSA shows different comparative **form** patterns depending on the root type.

2.2.1 Trilateral roots

Trilateral roots show various patterns for the comparative form as in 0) below.

(26)				
Root type	Adjective	Pattern	Comparative form	Meaning
Sound roots	<i>kabi:r</i>	$ʔa-C_1C_2VC_3$	<i>ʔakbar</i>	bigger
	<i>ħazi:n</i>		<i>ʔaħzan</i>	sadder
	<i>gadi:m</i>		<i>ʔaqdam</i>	older
Double roots	<i>ʕadi:d</i>	$ʔa-C_1VC_2C_2$	<i>ʔaʕadd</i>	newer
	<i>gali:l</i>		<i>ʔagall</i>	fewer
	<i>ħafi:f</i>		<i>ʔaħaff</i>	lighter
Hollow roots	<i>tajjib</i>	$ʔa-C_1C_2VC_3^9$	<i>ʔatjab</i>	better
	<i>ḍajjig</i>		<i>ʔaḍjag</i>	narrower
	<i>lajin</i>		<i>ʔaljan</i>	softer
Defective	<i>gawi:</i>	$ʔa-C_1C_2V$	<i>ʔagwa</i>	stronger

⁹ The second consonant is always a glide because they are hollow adjectives. That is, they are not the same pattern as the sound roots’.